



On Monday, November 14, 2005, State Health Commissioner Judith A. Monroe, M.D. made the first of 10 trips around the state to follow up locally on the INShape Indiana Health Summit on October 27, "Obesity Prevention: A Commitment to Act."

The follow-up meeting in Region 8 of Indiana was held at the Bedford Regional Medical Center and included interested parties from the following seven counties: Bartholomew, Brown, Jackson, Lawrence, Monroe, Orange, and Washington.

At the start of the day, Dr. Monroe met exclusively with local health department personnel, including the health officers from Lawrence and Orange counties, Dr. Alan Smith and Dr. Jose Lopez. Dr. Monroe discussed obesity issues specific to health departments. She also went over the state's pandemic influenza plan and responded to questions and concerns.

The meeting then opened up to all those interested in obesity prevention, whether they attended the statewide summit or not, to keep the momentum and enthusiasm generated at IUPUI going locally on this very important issue. Approximately 25 representatives from local health departments, hospitals, school corporations, Purdue extension offices, YMCAs, community outreach programs, and the Indiana State Department of Health met with Dr. Monroe for a lively and informative two-hour discussion.

In addition to briefly going over Dr. Lloyd Kolbe's obesity research and action plan, which he presented at the statewide summit in Indianapolis, Dr. Monroe also asked attendees to share some local best practices, inquired about planned initiatives locally, reiterated the need for strategic partnerships and networking, took feedback on the summit and its objectives, and promised to continue to make herself available to help combat Indiana's epidemic of obesity.

After the meeting, Dr. Monroe traveled to Monroe County to meet informally with the County Commissioners and tour the local health department there.